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Letter dated 11 June 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 30 April 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 April 2004), the total number of troops in theatre was 19,152, which included 3,445 troops from non-NATO countries.

2. Owing to the outbreak of violence in March 2004, NATO sent reserve forces from Allied and non-NATO countries to assist in stabilizing the province. As at 30 April 2004, the majority of the temporary reinforcements had returned to their garrisons.

Security

3. The general situation in Kosovo remained relatively calm but with an underlying tension that will continue for the foreseeable future. Although the level of inter-ethnic and criminal violence declined throughout the month, it could easily surge again if an incident, real or perceived, caused a repeat of the violence seen in March 2004. Through their media statements, some politicians and leaders were a tempering force over the population. However, both Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs continued to have little faith in the law enforcement organizations in the region and to have differing opinions with regard to the future of the province.

4. The number of violent intra-ethnic and inter-ethnic events were significantly lower than the previous month. The decrease was a factor of control and not indicative of a reduction in inter-ethnic hostility. A total of 15 murder and attempted-murder cases were reported in April 2004, resulting in a total of four people killed.

5. The threat against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) remained relatively low throughout the month, with only one reported incident occurring on 8 April 2004, when a Kosovo Albanian male in Prizren threatened KFOR troops. He was arrested by KFOR and handed over to the police.

6. On 27 April 2004, Samit Lushtaku, a former Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) and Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) Protection Zone Commander, was arrested for his suspected involvement in the riots of 17-19 March 2004. His detention prompted moderate and peaceful demonstrations throughout the region the following day, led by the UCK war veterans. Since the riots of March 2004, no violent incident has taken place at announced gatherings.

7. KFOR continues operations to secure the theatre to avoid ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites. KFOR remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases.

Compliance by the Serbia and Montenegro army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs special forces

8. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during April 2004.

The Kosovo Protection Corps

9. The current membership of the KPC comprises 3,003 active members, including 132 minorities, of which 32 are Serbs. The reserve personnel

establishment list includes 1,728 members, of which 22 are minorities. The statistics show a low rate of minorities in the KPC. During April 2004, roll calls were conducted in 40 KPC units. The number of individuals on sick leave, or other, was at an acceptable level of 18 per cent.

10. On 6 April 2004, Captain Shaqir Krasniqi was murdered near his home village of Gracanica. He was working in KPC Headquarters as a physical protection officer. The motive is unknown. The UNMIK police investigation is still ongoing.

Conclusion

11. On the surface, the overall situation within Kosovo remains stable. However, many Kosovo Serbs believe that the current period of calm does not reflect the danger they face individually or as a community. Kosovo Albanian candidates and political parties are continuing to consolidate their positions ahead of the upcoming elections and are focused on improving the perception of the international community with respect to Kosovo.

12. The underlying issues that contributed to the outbreak of violence in March 2004 remain largely unresolved within the province.